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# We Are ... Marshall, August 8, 2008

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • AUGUST 8, 2008

## Marshall Fans to 'Paint the Capital' Aug. 20

Marshall fans are making plans to attend 11<sup>th</sup> annual Paint the Capital City Green pep rally Aug. 20. Festivities start at 6 p.m. at Charleston's Embassy Suites Hotel and a formal program begins at 7:15 p.m.



The event begins with a pep rally and tailgate spread featuring entertainment by Marco and the cheerleading squad, as well as music from members of the Marshall University Marching Thunder. Fans in attendance will have an opportunity to meet President Stephen J. Kopp and hear from head football coach Mark Snyder and other members of the

university's coaching staff as well as key players on the team.

Paint the Capital City Green is the nation's largest indoor pep rally for Thundering Herd alumni, fans and friends.

Friends of Coal returns this year as the event's title sponsor. Paint the Capital City Green is hosted by the Big Green Scholarship Foundation, the Marshall University Alumni Association, the Greater Kanawha Valley Alumni Club and the Charleston Quarterback Club. Event proceeds benefit the Big Green Scholarship Foundation and the Marshall University Alumni Association.

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## Kristine Standifur Named Employee of the Month

Kristine Standifur, Administrative Secretary Senior for the Geography Department, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for June, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee since 1976, she was nominated by Dr. Lee Olson of the Adult & Technical Education Department, College of Education and Human Services.

In his nomination he wrote, "Ms. Standifur is an exemplary employee. She is exceptionally competent in the areas of financial management, academic affairs and serving and advising graduate students. She has always maintained excellent relations with her supervisors,

faculty, peers and students. Kris eagerly accepts any responsibility assigned to her. She readily assists students with the problems they bring to her. She has traveled to off-campus sites to advise and register students for classes.



Kristine Standifur (right) receives the Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

## Becker-Cottrill to Co-Chair National Autism Advisory Panel

Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, executive director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall, has been named cochair of the Autism



Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill

Society of America's Panel of Professional Advisors (PPA).

The volunteer members of the PPA, along with the Panel of People on the Spectrum of Autism, serve in an advisory capacity to the Autism Society's Board of Directors. Their varied experiences and expertise help ASA advance its mission of improving the lives of all affected by autism. Cochairs of the PPA also serve on the ASA Board of Directors.

"I am honored to have been selected for this position," Becker-Cottrill said. "ASA is

the oldest advocacy group for autism in the nation and they have had a major influence on public awareness, advocating for appropriate services, supporting

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Students are in constant contact with her via telephone and e-mail. She misses lunch breaks so that she can be available to students. She willingly works to complete

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# Samples Appointed Assistant Vice President of MU Foundation

Rebecca McPhail Samples, former Director of Annual Giving at Marshall University, has been named Assistant Vice President for Development at MU, Marshall Foundation Inc. CEO Dr. Ron Area has announced. Samples assumed her duties on July 1.



Rebecca McPhail Samples

Also, Dr. Lynne Mayer, recently eligible for retirement, will continue to serve the university. She is moving from Associate Vice President for Development, a position she has held since 2002, to the part-time position of Resident Development Consultant, Area said.

Samples, who has been at Marshall since October 2004, now oversees all of Marshall's development operations, including the University Fund, donor relations, development services and prospect management.

"Rebecca is a very talented professional," Area said. "She definitely has the ability to not only oversee this area, but also to be a major player in the raising of significant gifts."

Samples came to Marshall from the University of Charleston, where she was Director of Development. She previously was Development and Grant Research Manager and interim Director of Development for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland.

"I am pleased to accept an expanded role within the Development Office here at Marshall University," Samples

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## Smith to Head Teaching and Learning Center

Dr. Sherri Smith, an associate professor of English at Marshall University, will be the interim executive director of the university's Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning for academic year 2008-2009, according to Dr. Frances Hensley, associate vice president of academic affairs.

In addition to her teaching and scholarly activities, Smith has directed the Service Learning Program since its inception in 2003. In that capacity, she has created faculty development workshops to assist faculty in incorporating service learning projects across the disciplines and at all course levels. The program has grown in a short period of time to include 18 service-learning-trained faculty who collectively have worked with more than 1,000 students in six colleges/schools.

Hensley said Smith leads by example, and has one of the most successful service learning courses, WS 101, in which

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## What's Marco Doing on a Dollar Bill?

He's participating in an initiative for Marshall faculty and staff, to be revealed in the next several weeks. Watch this "We Are...Marshall" newsletter for more information as it becomes available.

## WE ARE...MARSHALL®



Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Aug. 22, 2008. Deadline is Aug. 15. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Latest Massey Energy Gift to Assist in Shewey Facility Renovation

The final payment of a \$250,000 commitment to Marshall University has been made by Massey Energy. The funds, which are designated for the Fred and Christine Shewey Athletic Building, will assist with recent renovations to the facility that will be completed prior to the beginning of the 2008 football season.

"From their *Doctors for our Communities (DOC)* program to their support of the Lewis College of Business, Massey Energy's commitment to Marshall University is very much appreciated," said Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp. "We thank them for completing this commitment to the Fred and Christine Shewey Athletic Building, and hope that their generosity will continue for the benefit of future generations of Marshall students."

"We are proud to be part of the Fred and Christine Shewey Athletic Building Project," said Don Blankenship,

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## Profile: Roberta Holbrook

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Roberta Holbrook

When Roberta Holbrook showed up for her job interview in the Department of Family and Community Health nearly 26 years ago, a caustic secretary took one look at her scant recent job history and said tersely, "Don't stop looking!"

Luckily for Holbrook and the department, she didn't heed the not-so-well-meaning advice and she's still on the job as an administrative

assistant long after that employee left. It says something about her resiliency and her sense of humor that she can still tell that story with relish.

"I had been a stay-at-home mom with my two sons for 15 years, so I hadn't been in the workforce for some time," she admits. "But I had graduated from the Huntington School of Business and I had worked for Armco Steel, so I wasn't a complete office novice." And if her skills had grown a little rusty, that was of no concern to Dr. David Heydinger, then the chair of the department, who hired her. He saw qualities in her that weren't reflected on her resume and she didn't disappoint him.

It was 1982 and the business world as far as office equipment was eons away from the days when she had toiled on a manual typewriter at Armco Steel. She was amazed at the marvels that awaited in her new job. In place of the cumbersome and slow manual typewriters on which she made finger-staining carbon copies, now she had a sleek electric machine with all sorts of correction components. And instead of a hand-cranked mimeograph machine with its messy, ink-spattering stencils there was an automatic copy machine that spit out multiple copies per minute at the touch of a button. It was high technology at the time and she was thrilled.

Holbrook was born and brought up in South Point, Ohio and still lives there. She considers herself lucky that in these days of soaring gas prices, she has only a 13 mile commute to work. Beginning in grade school, she carried on a family tradition as a band musician and in high school she was a member of the South Point High School marching band. She plays the alto saxophone and her instrument is a treasured family heirloom. "My grandfather bought it secondhand for my mother, who graduated from high school in 1939. That was a major purchase for the time," she says. And for the past few years the sax hasn't been just languishing in its plush carrying case, either. She's put it to good use and in a most unexpected place. Today she's an enthusiastic member of the Ceredo-Kenova Alumni Concert Band even though she's never lived in C-K and certainly isn't a C-K High School alumna.

A few years ago, as band numbers were dwindling, the group opened up membership for anyone in the Tri-state area who could qualify. That news was truly music to Holbrook's ears. "I had been so

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## Kristine Standifur

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assignments that are given her so they can have a short turnaround time."

Olson comments her on her frugality in expending university and grant funds and notes that she keeps in close contact with faculty and coordinators who are requesting funds for university expenditures. He notes that she is aware of the options that are available to faculty. She has competently managed the department, division and grant funds budgets, and she is knowledgeable about state and university policies and requirements.

"She advises students, faculty and supervisors of these policies and requirements," the nomination continues. "She takes advantage of any additional training that is available to help improve her knowledge and competency with work-related duties."

He notes that even though Standifur has recently accepted a position in another department, she has continued to assist faculty and others with information and advice related to student policies and requirements, academic requirements and financial affairs.

Olson concludes the nomination with praise for her "conscientious performance, professional competence and positive attitude."

She was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

## 'Grow With Music' Starts Sept. 2

"Grow With Music," a popular program for children ages birth to 5 and their parents, will resume this fall beginning the week of Sept. 1, according to Joni Pappas, director of the program, which is offered through the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Marshall University.

"Parents and their kids are having a great time at these classes," Pappas said.

Classes are available for babies from birth to 18 months; toddlers from 18 to 36 months; 3 year olds, and 4 and 5 year olds. Parent participation is required in the classes for the baby, toddler and 3-year-old categories and optional for the 4 and 5-year-old category. Classes take place in the early evenings on Mondays and during the day on Mondays and Tuesdays. A maximum of 8 children is accepted per class and children with special needs are welcome.

Pappas said the 45-minute sessions are designed to enhance a child's cognitive, social/emotional, speech/language and physical development by using age-appropriate music activities and movement.

For information on "Grow with Music," persons may visit the program's Web site at [www.marshall.edu/commdis/music](http://www.marshall.edu/commdis/music), contact Pappas by e-mailing [pappasj@marshall.edu](mailto:pappasj@marshall.edu), or call her at (304) 697-0211.

## Smith

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students work on the development and operation of Huntington's Dress for Success program.

Smith will assume her new role Aug. 18 as host of New Faculty Orientation. She will be contacting chairs, deans and faculty to assess the faculty development needs for this academic year.

## Roberta Holbrook

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busy raising my family and working that I didn't have time to think about playing again, but this group gave me the chance. There are people from all over who are in the band; they come from Ohio and Kentucky as well as from this area. There are about 40 to 45 of us and we practice every Monday in the Ceredo-Kenova High band room. We do most of our performances in the summer." She can easily tick off the concerts—there is the Memorial Day celebration, a June concert, a big July 4<sup>th</sup> event complete with rousing, and now rarely performed, John Phillip Sousa marches and a big band concert in August. Then there's a fall concert and several programs with joyous holiday music.

The warm-weather events are performed outdoors in a gazebo, which harkens back to long-ago leisurely outings. "It's like going back in time," Holbrook says. "People come to hear us and bring their children, just like their parents and grandparents used to do many years ago. It's a feeling of small-town America." She particularly likes the camaraderie of the band members. "I've met people from all walks of life, and since we spend so much time practicing and playing together, we've developed a closeness because we have something in common. I'm really enjoying this experience."

In addition to her love of music, she's an avid bird watcher. It's a hobby she's pursued since childhood. "Since I was very young, I've loved watching birds and trying to identify them. I've got books about birds and I have two bird feeders with different foods for a variety of birds." She's delighted that she now has small companions to watch with her. She's teaching her son Paul's two children, Annika, 6, and Alec, 4, the wonders of the bird world and they seem to be learning their lessons well. Both have surprised her with their ability to spot and identify birds at their young ages.

Holbrook is an enthusiastic gardener who lovingly tends her flower gardens and mows her own grass. Her most prized tree is a large pawpaw with showy crimson blossoms, which was an inadvertent gift from her grandfather. "He was eating pawpaws one day and just threw the seeds on the ground," she says laughing. "Somehow, some of the seeds sprouted and became trees... this one survived and is thriving," she says.

Holbrook is grateful that both her sons, Dean and Paul, and their families live nearby and that she can see her grandchildren often. In fact, the grandkids often spend Saturday night with her and accompany her to church on Sunday where they meet up with their parents, who are also members of the church.

As she looks back over her nearly 26 years in her department, she takes pride in the graduates she's seen complete the lengthy and tough medical program. "Watching the students and residents go out on their own to practice and knowing that you had even something small to do with it is so fulfilling," she says thoughtfully. "I came in September of 1982 and the first class had graduated in May of that year so I've seen every class go through the program since then."

Students have come to know and appreciate her for her patience and her warm and caring personality. She's a sympathetic listener who is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever it's needed. She came to Marshall in search of a job and has found more fulfillment than she could have dreamed. She's glad she didn't heed that long-ago bad advice to keep looking someplace else. "I really did want to go back to work," she says. "I believe God sent me right here."

## Paint the Capital City

from Page 1

"I always look forward to Paint the Capital City Green," Snyder said. "It's a great opportunity to take our show to the Capital City and meet our Kanawha Valley Herd fans. I look forward to introducing some of our great players to our fans there."

To order tickets, call (304) 696-7138.

## Becker-Cottrill

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important research and advancing critical autism legislation. I am eager to contribute and to work with the dedicated individuals of the PPA and the ASA Board of Directors."

Becker-Cottrill received her doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has been involved in education and developmental disabilities for the past 28 years, serving as a behavior analyst at the Margaret Chapman School in Hawthorne, N.Y., and as executive director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall for the past 18 years.

Becker-Cottrill also is an adjunct graduate professor at Marshall, teaching courses related to autism. She has served as the principal investigator for the West Virginia Autism Monitoring Project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is a codirector of the Network of Autism Training and Technical Assistance Programs (NATTAP) and cofounder of the College Program for Students with Asperger's Syndrome at Marshall. Becker-Cottrill also serves on the Autism Society of West Virginia Board of Directors. She recently coauthored the book *Autism: A Primer for Educators*.

## Samples

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said. "The vision of our leaders, the commitment of our alumni, and the continued growth of the university have created a strong institution with a limitless future."

Mayer has been at Marshall since 1970 when she was hired as Research Specialist of Information Services in the West Virginia Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education. She has served in numerous roles at Marshall, including Special Assistant to the President (1987-1991) and Director of Planning/Assistant to the President (1984-1987) and has been with the Development Office since 1991.

## Massey Energy

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Massey Energy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "With more than 75 percent of Marshall University students being from West Virginia, this learning institution is changing lives within the Mountain State by allowing them to earn an education to better themselves and provide for their families. Our support of both academic and athletic programs at Marshall University is a sense of pride for everyone at Massey Energy."